

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 AGR-05 COME-00 /079 W

----- 013258

R 041600Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9851

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3172

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, ECON, PINS, MOPS, ET

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN LAND REFORM

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2364

1. RESPONSIBLE FONMIN OFFICER TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 4 THAT, BASED ON ADMITTEDLY SKETCHY INFORMATION SO FAR AVAILABLE, DIRG'S LAND REFORM DECREES BID FAIR TO COMPOUND ETHIOPIAN PROBLEMS. FOREIGN MINISTRY IS UNAWARE OF EXTENT TO WHICH DIRG INTENDS TO PRESS THESE SWEEPING AND RADICAL MEASURES ON A PEASANTRY AND CHURCH WHICH HAD A NEAR-FANATICAL ATTACHMENT TO THEIR TRADITIONAL AND TRIBAL LANDS. IF IT GOES TOO FAR AND FAST, HOWEVER, IN ATTACKING THE ANCIENT AND COMPLEX LAND TENURE SYSTEMS, DIRG WOULD BE INTRODUCING A NEW AND SERIOUS SOURCE OF INSTABILITY.

2. CERTAINLY, PER OUR SOURCE, NEW POCKETS OF RESENTMENT AND POSSIBLE RESISTANCE TOWARD DIRG ARE BEING CREATED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THE ERITREAN QUESTION ASIDE. WHILE THE DIRG IS THE "SINGLE REMAINING POWER STRUCTURE" IN THE COUNTRY, AND THOUGH IT IS HARD TO SEE WHAT ELEMENTS MIGHT TRY TO SUPPLANT IT, DIRG MAY FIND IT HAS BITTEN OFF FAR TOO MUCH IF IT TRIES TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW MEASURES. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAND REFORMS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 MAR 1975  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ROME03172  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750076-0188  
**From:** ROME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 60  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** ETHIOPIAN LAND REFORM  
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